

ELIMINATING CERTAIN REPORTS OF CHAPLAINS

JULY 23, 1959.—Ordered to be printed

Mrs. SMITH, from the Committee on Armed Services, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 3290]

The Committee on Armed Services, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 3290), to amend title 10, United States Code, to eliminate the requirement that each chaplain make an annual report to the Secretary of the Navy, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE

This bill would repeal a statutory requirement that each chaplain must report annually to the Secretary of the Navy on the official services performed by him.

EXPLANATION

The provision of law that established the reporting requirement proposed to be repealed by this bill was enacted in 1860. At that time the number of chaplains in the Navy was only 24. These chaplains were widely distributed and the annual reporting system was the most effective method for the Secretary of the Navy to keep advised of their activities.

The number of chaplains in the Chaplains Corps of the Navy is about 800 at the present time. These chaplains are administered by the Chief of Chaplains who obtains, quarterly, from each fleet or district chaplain a statistical summary of the activities of the chaplains assigned to those commands. This information subsequently is forwarded to the Chief of Naval Personnel and is available to the Secretary of the Navy. Because of the existing statutory requirement that each chaplain must submit an annual report to the Secretary, there is a duplication of time and effort that serves no useful purpose.

The Chief of Chaplains is primarily concerned with the appointment, professional qualifications, distribution, activities, and performance of individual chaplains. For practical purposes he performs the functions formerly performed directly by the Secretary of the Navy in connection with the administration of Navy chaplains. For this reason, it appears that the statutory requirement for a separate report to the Secretary of the Navy has been outmoded.

COST

The Department of Defense estimates that enactment of this measure will result in an annual savings of \$6,500.

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

Printed below and hereby made a part of this report is a letter from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, dated December 22, 1958, indicating that this measure is supported by the Department of Defense and that the Bureau of the Budget has no objection to it.

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE,
Washington, December 22, 1958.

Hon. RICHARD M. NIXON,
President of the Senate.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: There is enclosed a draft of proposed legislation to amend title 10, United States Code, to eliminate the requirement that each chaplain make an annual report to the Secretary of the Navy.

This proposal is part of the Department of Defense legislative program for 1959 and the Bureau of the Budget has advised that there would be no objection to the presentation of this proposal for the consideration of the Congress. The Department of the Navy has been designated as the representative of the Department of Defense for this legislation. It is recommended that this legislation be enacted by the Congress.

PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION

The purpose of the proposed legislation is to repeal an existing statutory requirement affecting the Department of the Navy which requires that "each chaplain shall report annually to the Secretary of the Navy the official services performed by him."

The provision of law establishing the reporting requirement for chaplains in the Navy was enacted in 1860. At that time, and until 1914, there was a quota of approximately 24 chaplains in the Navy and since these chaplains were widely distributed, the annual reporting system was the most effective way for the Secretary of the Navy to keep advised as to their activities. At the present time however, there are approximately 800 chaplains in the Chaplain Corps of the Navy. These chaplains are now administered by, and are responsible to, the Chief of Chaplains who in addition to routine reporting requirements obtains quarterly from each fleet force or district chaplain a statistical summary of the activities of individual chaplains assigned to respective commands. This information is subsequently forwarded to the Chief of Naval Personnel and is thus available to the Secretary

of the Navy. However, because of the existing statutory requirement contained in section 6031(d) of title 10, United States Code, individual chaplains are also required to submit an annual report of their activities to the Secretary of the Navy, thus resulting in a duplication of time and effort which serves no useful purpose.

Inasmuch as the Chief of Chaplains is primarily concerned with the appointment, professional qualifications, distribution, activities, and performance of individual chaplains, he performs for practical purposes, the functions formerly directly performed by the Secretary of the Navy in respect to the administration of Navy chaplains. It therefore appears evident that the existing statutory reporting requirement for Navy chaplains has been rendered obsolete, and for this reason it is recommended that section 6031(d) of title 10, United States Code, be repealed.

COST AND BUDGET DATA

It is estimated that the elimination of this reporting requirement would result in an annual savings of \$6,500 on a navywide basis and would be in consonance with the objective of eliminating unnecessary reports.

Sincerely yours,

DONALD A. QUARLES, *Deputy.*

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with subsection 3 of Rule XXIX of the Standing Rules of the Senate, there is printed below in black brackets the text of existing law which will be repealed by the provisions of this bill:

TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE

§ 6031. Chaplains: divine services

(a) An officer in the Chaplain Corps may conduct public worship according to the manner and forms of the church of which he is a member.

(b) The commanders of vessels and naval activities to which chaplains are attached shall cause divine service to be performed on Sunday, whenever the weather and other circumstances allow it to be done; and it is earnestly recommended to all officers, seamen, and others in the naval service diligently to attend at every performance of the worship of Almighty God.

(c) All persons in the Navy and in the Marine Corps are enjoined to behave themselves in a reverent and becoming manner during divine service.

[(d) Each chaplain shall report annually to the Secretary of the Navy the official services performed by him.]



